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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

CONSERVATION AND THE VETERINARIAN¹

As civilization advances and freer commerce develops with other nations, new conditions arise. New dangers menace our plant as well as our animal food supply. As farmers must now contend with the San José scale and other insect pests which formerly caused no concern but now threaten his fruit and other crops, so must the veterinarian realize that new dangers in the form of foreign diseases as rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, trypanosomes and possibly others may at any time invade our territory. Aside from the possibility of the danger of this foreign invasion, the diseases already established here in the form of glanders, anthrax, tuberculosis, abortion and sterility are sufficient cause for the most serious apprehension. The condition may soon arrive, if it has not already arrived, when, in certain sections, it will be difficult to maintain the normal size of the herds, letting alone the question of surplus stock for the market, because of the ravages of bovine diseases. If there is or should be difficulty in maintaining the size of the herds as they now are, the problem of rearing surplus animals is indeed a serious one.

The old order changeth. The day when the only desirable practise was in the city, and this was concerned principally with the horse, has gone by. While the automobile has undoubtedly affected city practise, it is no more likely to supplant the horse

¹ A portion of the president's address presented at the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, Ithaca, N. Y., August 3, 1915.